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Did Drugs Lead to Death?

CIA Claims 'No Basis' in Suicide Suit Charges

The Central Intelligence Agency today said "there is no basis" for charges by the widow of a Marine colonel that the CIA caused his suicide death.

Mrs. Edith W. Christensen, of Virginia Beach, filed suit in U.S. District Court here saying the CIA "administered certain drugs" to her husband, a retired colonel, during a Jan. 18 job interview here.

Mrs. Christensen and her 17-year-old daughter filed suits against the Government asking \$800,000 in damages.

The interview, the suit said, was one of two Col. Christensen had with CIA officials in an effort to gain employment with the Intelligence Agency after his retirement. Eight days after the second interview, he killed himself with a pistol outside the home of Retired Army Maj. Gen. Thomas N. Griffin, it said.

Mrs. Christensen charged the CIA administered "drugs or toxic substances" to her husband and was negligent in that it knew, or should have known, "they could and probably would affect him

adversely." She said she was told the drugs were to determine his reaction to drugs under questioning.

The attorneys said Mrs. Christensen noticed "a definite change" in her husband following the Jan. 18 session with the CIA. She reported her husband was in "a very upset state emotionally and thought people were trying to poison him."